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Nazi-hunter charges stalling on Barbie

Paris (AP) — French officials knew Klaus Barbie, a convicted war criminal, was in Bolivia working for the Central Intelligence Agency and West German intelligence for at least eight years before they attempted to get him expelled, the Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld charged yesterday.

Mr. Klarsfeld also repeated, with detailed documentation, charges that authorities in the American zone of Germany frustrated French attempts to get Mr. Barbie for five years immediately after World War II.

Official action resumed only in 1972 after Mr. Klarsfeld and his wife Beate made public the whereabouts of the "Butcher of Lyon," to pressure French authorities, he said in an article in the newspaper *Le Monde*.

Mr. Barbie was expelled from Bolivia to France this month by the new government in La Paz, and is in jail in Lyon facing charges of crimes against humanity for the deaths, deportation or torture of about 11,000 members of the Resistance and Jews in occupied France.

Le Monde printed the text of what Mr. Klarsfeld said was a French army "secret, confidential" report dated November 7, 1963.

It reported what it called official German information that Mr. Barbie had been employed and protected by U.S. authorities after the German surrender in 1945, that he was living in La Paz from 1961 or 1962, and that he was believed to have a cover job organized by the CIA and the West German intelligence service.

A spokesman for the French Defense Ministry said there would be no comment on the document or its authenticity because the Barbie case is before the courts.

Mr. Klarsfeld said he had had the "bitter surprise several years ago" to discover the document. "I kept silent until now because I was profoundly wounded to realize that France knew officially where Barbie was from at least 1963."

"Nothing, strictly nothing, was done by France" from the time of the document's discovery until the Klarsfelds started their efforts against Mr. Barbie in 1971, said Mr. Klarsfeld.

He accused an unspecified "very small group" of French officials of imposing its desire to keep the Barbie case quiet, when "everything was in hand for efficient action."

Mr. Klarsfeld also examined abortive French attempts to get Mr. Barbie out of the American zone of Germany. One document he quoted was a note of July 28, 1949, from the secretariat for tracing war criminals in Baden-Baden to the French general commission for German and Austrian affairs.

It said that "Barbie enjoys the protection of the American occupation authorities and ... it is possible that these authorities will not facilitate the necessary enquiry, thus preventing us from constituting the statutory dossier for extradition."

The American zone authorities acknowledged Mr. Barbie's existence early in 1950 and offered to let him testify in France. The terms were unacceptable for France, which had issued international arrest warrants for him as a known war criminal.

Finally in May, 1950, the French government sent an extradition request direct to the State Department. More than a year later, the French ambassador was told the State Department had no new information on Mr. Barbie's whereabouts. The French search stopped, Mr. Klarsfeld said.

"But we know that meanwhile, on February 21, 1951, a 'Temporary Travel Document,' No. 0121454, was granted by the American authorities in Munich to Klaus Barbie, under the name of Klaus Altmann" under which he later lived in Bolivia, said Mr. Klarsfeld.